The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

Yesterday's Proceedings in Congress.

A Compromise for the Proposed Ku-Klux Legislation Adopted in the House.

An Investigating Committee Appointed to go South During the Recess.

Butler, of Mass., Declines the Chairmanship in a Long Letter.

The Senate Disposed to Concur in the Action of the House.

President Grant Interviewed Concerning the San Domingo Business.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Chief among the incidents of all the sessions of the day have been the efforts to get a Ku-Klux measure from Representative, S. F. Butler. In the Republican caucus, last night, it received the majority with no efforts, and now that such a domineering leader, that a large majority of the members who finished the same were hopelessly disgusted. There were only eighty-four members present, all of whom, save two, agreed, either through want of harmony on the decision in question, or through indifference, to allow Butler to report the bill he had prepared to the House, and engineer the same through if he could.

Mr. Butler was in high spirits, and was confident that, with the Republican party to back him, he would do a thing or two in the way of legislation that would not only put an end to the Ku-Klux trouble, but scare those who indulged in those pastimes clear out of their boots. Today, when the House met, Butler was on hand, ready, and confident it is to Mr. Lynch, of declaring for presentation when the State of Mississippi called upon for resolutions. Mr. Lynch, of course, had no resolutions to present. Mr. Butler, of course, had no resolutions to present. Mr. Butler, of course, had no resolutions to present. Mr. Butler

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THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1871.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.

The election in New Hampshire, on Tuesday, is not without its lesson. Whether we have lost one or all the members of Congress, or whether the Democratic candidate for Governor has been elected by a large or small majority, the result shows how keen the opposition is to take advantage of any trouble or division in the Republican party. The vote in New Hampshire is unusually large for a State election. New Hampshire has voted Republican every year since and including 1855. At this election three members of Congress were to be chosen, and Senator Patterson was at home taking an active part in it. He was a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and opposed, like Sumner, to the annexation of San Domingo. On the eve of the election was issued the famous letter of the Executive and Senatorial proscription of Sumner on that issue. Under these circumstances the wonder is that the defeat was not more overwhelming.

This election adds a new danger of any authority less than the convention of the whole party undertaking to deny freedom of thought and action to any portion of the members upon all questions not directly in issue between the Republican and Democratic parties. Men cannot be deprived of this right. When they accept the platform of a party, they do not surrender their freedom of thought and judgment upon all matters outside and beyond that platform, and no power can force upon them a new issue without more or less endangering the unity and harmony and accordancy of the whole party.

It required but a change of a few hundred votes in each district to defeat all the Republican candidates for Congress in New Hampshire, and it was a dangerous experiment, on the eve of the election, to declare that all Republicans must, under pain of Executive displeasure, favor the annexation of San Domingo. The result was the defeat of one and, perhaps, all the Republican candidates.

An election comes off in Connecticut in April, and that State had, in the last Congress, three Republican members and two Democrats. Both of the Senators from Connecticut are opposed to San Domingo. Let us hope that the caucuses at Washington will not push their proscription now opposed to the annexation of San Domingo to the extent of defeating the election of Republican Congressmen in that State also. In fact, the best thing that can be done is to let San Domingo wait until after the next Presidential election, and then, if that country wants to be annexed, let it be done in a proper and legitimate manner, if the people want it. With a vigilant and energetic opposition prepared to take advantage of every mistake, the Republican party cannot afford any division in its ranks, or any weakening of its strength, upon doubtful questions.

SUMNER AND CAMERON.

Our Washington correspondent, we are sure, was quite mistaken in the despatch in which he attributed to Mr. Sumner any covert sarcasm in the remarks of Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Mr. Cameron, in regard to the French claims, on Monday. Mr. Sumner, we think, would hold such an act to be an overtness and in bad taste, under the circumstances, and he has so much overwhelming sense of grim humor that would make him forget what he considered tainly sensible as well as good breeding. Indeed, it is one of Mr. Sumner's peculiarities that the element of humor was left out of his mental constitution. He is always in dead earnest, and is not one of those men who "write with a smile," or dress wit in other people's words. He is not small in all of his many speeches a single instance even of playfulness or any attempt to enliven the sombre seriousness of his subject with anything like wit or humor.

We have no doubt, therefore, as we stated Mr. Cameron on the occasion alluded to in the most perfect good faith, and with the single purpose of imparting upon the mind of that gentleman the importance of the subject under consideration, and the necessity of bringing it down upon the most abstruse principles of international law, a thorough familiarity with the history of our past diplomatic relations with France, and a complete knowledge of French law. Of course, as against Mr. Sumner's constituents who are deeply interested in the settlement of these French claims, and he is thoroughly and honestly persuaded, as he is of everything he undertakes, of their righteousness and of the difficulties with which they are surrounded. The seeming irony of his address to Mr. Cameron is all the more insensitive by the entire absence on the part of Mr. Sumner of any frivolous purpose, and his entire unconsciousness that any such interpretation could be put upon his speech. Mr. Cameron is perfectly independent of any knowledge of international law, of any familiarity with French or any other history, and his knowledge of diplomacy is limited to a brief service at the Venetian Court, during the period of a vessel to keep his record from interfering with his when in the Imperial drawing-room, but not much else. It was the irony of circumstances and not of intention that made the attitude of the Senator so utterly unique. When Daniel O'Connell called a fellowman, with whom he had got into an altercation, an hypothenuse and an insoluble triangle, he cast knife to wounds, because the had not the slightest idea of what he meant. Of course O'Connell meant to excite that wrath, while Mr. Sumner had no such intention; but the consequence was no more in the fact as to the result.

We have gone to Mr. Sumner's meaning in his disgust and irascibility most unnecessarily and aggravated by an overpowering consciousness of his own superiority, and the doubt in his own mind is to whether Mr. Sumner was "chaffing" him or not. The indifference of the whole scene was immensely heightened by the absence of any humor on the part of Mr. Sumner, and his certain and a perfect good faith that Mr. Cameron had any knowledge of the subject in question, or any ability, natural or acquired, to cope with it. That there was any humor in a chance that the government would settle these French claims, which amount to some millions, Mr. Cameron is just the man to have calculated those chances, the possible time of payment, and what could be made out of them, to a penny; but the international law, the diplomatic history and the abstract equity of the case are things entirely beyond his notice and the practice of statesmanship. The whole affair provokes a very amusing commentary upon President Grant's choice of a Chairman for the Committee on Foreign Relations, while, at the same time, it suggests very other reflection. The burning of Rome was none the less serious because Nero fiddled during the conflagration.

The Governor and Senator-elect Clayton of Arkansas, has proven himself an admirable and successful politician. He was elected Governor by a majority of 40,000 and Johnson Lieutenant Governor. The Legislature was Republican in both branches, and Clayton, in January, was elected United States Senator from the 6th of March. Johnson, on the 4th inst., took the first step toward the latter end, and, getting the hold previously given to the office of Governor, started with the assistance of the officers mustered into the service of the new Governor, to raise the State. The first step was to call out the militia, and the second was to declare martial law. The officers of the New York Custom House, Mobile, Ala., conclude that Arkansas has gone, and of course consider it safe would be to destroy the only agency by which the people can be accused to a waste of their political dangers, and of the necessity of taking part in elections.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

When the bill to appoint Commissioners for Cook County was debated in the Legislature, on Tuesday, the question of electing the members by general ticket and by districts was discussed. Mr. Reed opposed the minority representation because it was new, because he did not understand it, and, of course, the public generally did not understand it. Mr. Phelps also opposed it, declaring that he did not care how the public had voted on the subject; he would act independently. Mr. Vocke, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Sullivan supported the amendment, the rest of the Cook County members opposing it. The present members of the Legislature were not elected upon the rule of minority representation. The people of this city had no opportunity to cumulate votes for or against either of them, and, on the principle of upsetting wall of the bridge that one can safely over, it was natural for the members to believe that whatever system resulted in their election must be the wisest and best.

Outside, however, of the delegation, there is room for a difference of opinion, whether the public service would not be greatly benefited if these fifteen Commissioners were to be elected by general ticket giving to each voter the choice of casting his fifteen votes in whole or in part against any dishonest, incompetent, or improper person, who may have succeeded in getting a caucus nomination. A party in power can best retain its supremacy by getting rid of bad nominations when those who are unfit for office, and, as it is not possible always to secure the nomination of proper men, then the most certain mode is to concentrate the vote so as to secure the election of those who ought to be elected. All that plan of persons who have no hope of getting in office, unless they can get their names so inserted on an engraved ticket as to prevent a voter scratching it, are opposed to any system by which they can vote for whomsoever they please.

These men regard minority representation with horror, and as something the people have not asked for, and which is dangerous to entrust the people with. It is possible that the people in their ignorance might not elect some men who had purchased a regular nomination, and might not elect some honest, competent men, but the chances are they would never be elected. Twenty-five years ago there was the same objection to voting by ballot. It was said that the people did not understand it, that they would be imposed on, that many men would not vote, and that parties would adhere to the old plan of making every man tell whom he voted for. But it turned out that the people actually had intelligence enough to understand how to vote upon a new system. Mr. Reed would only permit them to try it, and we think that the people of this county in time will learn how to use their privilege of concentrating their vote for good men, and against bad men, and we have no question that in time it will be considered a boon.

The municipal rule was voted down in the House, but why, except upon a distrust of the intelligence of the people, cannot be understood. If it be safe to trust the people of the whole State in the Legislature on that rule, why not safe to trust them to elect County Commissioners? The County Board are to govern us here-after, either to them us with an honest administration of affairs, or to be dealt some heretofore. In the selection of officers of so important a character, and whose functions are purely local, is it not better to secure fifteen proper and honest men, even if five of them be Democrats, than to have to elect fifteen Democrats of the type of the corrupt Supervisors?

ALLEGED PERJURY IN THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE.

The Wisconsin Legislature has been greatly agitated for the last week or two, concerning the alleged bribery of certain members by the parties to Agle & Co. in the Capitol Contract business, and by the failure of those parties to bribe members generally. The Dells question has been regularly before the Legislators of our neighbor State and has been the chief burden of the conversation, about half a dozen successive sessions. This winter the bill was introduced before the Speaker of the Assembly was fairly in his seat, and ranks as No. 1 on the Assembly file. In the Senate, also, it was one of the first matters taken up for consideration. Passing that the fight this session was to be fierce and final. There were stories of vast efforts by members "to contaminate their figure" with bribes, which would, if successful, be demonstrated by "lean" and some of them, it was alleged, had been accepted. An investigating committee was ordered at once, and yard-of testimony were taken, which, from the fact that the whole month's session of members who had made the most of the talk about bribery. The loudest of these was the Hon. Nelson Pryor, of Jefferson County, whom the former Chaplain of the Assembly pronounced "a man of the people, genuine, reliable man," and who wrote, on examination, that the Hon. Fred C. Tharp, an ex-Senator, did ship a "wad" of greenbacks into his (Pryor's) pocket in connection with the Dells bill, in favor of the bill; and that, on drawing forth the "wad" after he reached his quarters, the honorable gentleman from Jefferson discovered to his intense disgust, that it was $200! He immediately determined not to take that bribe, and requested his next friend to see to it that the filthy stuff went straight to some orphan asylum. In contradiction of this testimony, Mr. Thorp swears that he did lend the gentleman from Jefferson $20, in response to money promises to support the measure and secure the passage of the bill, on drawing forth the "wad" after he reached his quarters, the honorable gentleman from Jefferson discovered to his intense disgust, that it was $200! He immediately determined not to take that bribe, and requested his next friend to see to it that the filthy stuff went straight to some orphan asylum. In contradiction of this testimony, Mr. Thorp swears that he did lend the gentleman from Jefferson $20, in response to money promises to support the measure and secure the passage of the bill, and that

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THE LAW COURTS.

Controversy Concerning a Fault-Wall.

Conviction of a Pawnbroker for Receiving Stolen Goods.

Circuit Court.

A SALT-SUITED PLAINTIFF.

In case of Patrick Dowling, brought against the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, to recover $1,000 insurance money as being on trial. Plaintiff's counsel say he sets up that the policy required him to insure to the amount of $1,000, and that was all he was bound to do, and that the refusal of the company to pay for the loss of the property by fire was a condition of his policy, wherefore he sued.

A DISTRAINED COUPLE.

Benjamin Wood was sued out against Benjamin Lewis, Jr., for the recovery of rentals claimed to be due for the use of certain lands in the town of Chicago. The defendants plead the general issue, and the case was tried by the court without a jury. The defendants claim that the premises in question belong to the estate of the late Benjamin Lewis, Sr., and that they have been in the possession of the same for a number of years. The plaintiff claims that he has a lease of the premises from the defendants, and that they have distrained his property for rent. The case is still on trial.

Superior Court.

DIVORCE GRANTED.

Mary Ann Wade, who was married to Silas H. Wade on the 20th of November, 1866, and on account of her ill-treatment by her husband, was granted a decree of divorce from the bonds of matrimony. Lot 5, of Block 32, O Ogden Tower Lots, was awarded to the complainant as alimony. Lot 4, Block 14, Assessor's Subdivision of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40,

FOREIGN.

German Troops Assigned to the Newly-Acquired Provinces.

The German Army System to be Adopted by the Fourth.

Enthusiastic Reception of the Emperor William at Frankfort.

FRANCE.

THE ASSEMBLY.

PARIS, March 15.—The Assembly will meet to-morrow at Versailles to make preparations for the reception of the Assembly. At a caucus of respect to-day, the question of the Consul will probably be laid at Versailles.

SUPPRESSED PAPERS.

Le Soir says that the Assembly has granted President Thiers a supply of 1,500,000 francs for the immediate expenses of the government. It is estimated that 60,000,000 can be realized from the Crown property sold by the coalition of conservatives.

MISCELLANEOUS.

All soldiers whose term of service has expired leave the city to-day for their homes.

Marshal MacMahon and General Ornstier are in Paris.

Mails leave daily for England.

The German Treaties of Peace has prohibited the publication of certain French official documents by journals in the department on penalty of suspension for six months.

A STORY OF THE WORLD'S MANUFACTORY.

[Special to the New-York World.]

PARIS, March 15.—It is said that this informed Thiers that he is embarrassed in organizing politically and commercially the cities of Paris, owing to the great number of Germans in the Assembly and the representatives that German commerce will be damaged by connection with the Malthusian Republicans, and that they would abandon Alsace and Lorraine if the necessity is forced on them and a half dozen of Orsinis.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

Arrangements are being made for French representation at the exhibition of 1871, at London and Vienna.

DISPATCH.

PARIS, March 15.—M. Jules Favre presented his credentials to Queen, at Windsor, as Minister from the new government of Prince. The Foreign Minister warmly spoke the United Empires and promised her continued friendship. The Queen and Prince of Wales have recognized the French Republic.

CABINET CONSULTATION.

A Cabinet council was held to-day, presided over by Thiers.

PRESIDENT LAY.

PARIS, March 15.—President of the Assembly, in the face of the protests of the Left, has issued a decree of the Assembly, but both Middle parties. Under the decree the Assembly now in session will probably for three years in the regular, and one-fourth annually thereafter. The Left will not be represented in the Assembly, and will probably refuse to take part in the Government.

ENGLAND.

LONDON, March 15.—The Times' correspondent at Versailles, telegraphs that the Germans will withdraw their troops from Paris on the 20th inst. The Times' Paris correspondent says that the Germans will withdraw their troops from Paris on the 20th inst. The Times' Paris correspondent says that the Germans will withdraw their troops from Paris on the 20th inst. The Times' Paris correspondent says that the Germans will withdraw their troops from Paris on the 20th inst.

THE CASTLE-GARDEN.

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THE NEW PROVINCES.

LONDON, March 15.—The Times' correspondent of the Continent at Amiens reports that General Von Goeben's army is moving from North-ern France to Alsace and Lorraine, and the new German province of Alsace and Lorraine.

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